REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

DR. RANBIR SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I lay a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) on Action Taken Report on Krishi Vigyan Kendra on the Recommendations / Observations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-1996) (Tenth Lok Sabha).

RE. DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF CAUVERY WATER TRIBUNAL—Contd.

जल-संसाधन मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आम तौर से ज़ीरो ऑवर में जो बातें उठाई जाती हैं, उन पर कुछ कहना सरकार की तरफ से ठीक नहीं है और बोला भी नहीं जाता इतनी जल्दी, लेकिन माननीय नारायणसामी और उनके साथियों ने कावेरी जल विवाद को लेकर के जो चिंता जताई है, उन पर उतनी ही चिंतित वर्तमान सरकार है। उस जल विवाद प्राधिकरण के अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से जस्टिस मुखर्जी ने इस्तीफा दिया और तब से लगातार यह प्रयास चल रहा है, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश से निवेदन किया जा रहा है कि वे किसी दूसरे जज की नियुक्ति करें आज मैं सवेरे जब अपने कार्यालय में बैठा था तो एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय से यह जानकारी मिली है कि किसी जज का नाम उन्होंने क्लीअर किया है। अभी तक उसके लिए कोई कम्युनिकेशन हमारे पास नहीं है, इसलिए हम नहीं कह सकते, लेकिन जैसे ही वहां से नाम आता है, उस न्यायाधीश का नाम ट्रिब्यूनल में रखकर इसकी कार्रवाई प्रारम्भ करा दी जाएगी।

RE. ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION AT WTO CONFERENCE AT SINGAPORE FOR SETTING UP A GLOBAL REGIME OF INVESTMENT LAWS HAVING SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN ECONOMY

SHRI ASHOK M1TRA (West Bengal): I am running against the clock. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir we are supposed to be a sovereign Parliament but it also devolves on us to be alert so that this sovereignty is protected. Now, I would not like to go into the circumstances which let to our signing the World Trade Organisation Treaty. Some of us feel that even by signing the treaty, some of the sovereignty of our Parliament has been abrogated. Forget about the past. We should be more concerned about the future. Next Monday, the World Trade Organisation Secretariat has convened a five-day long Ministerial meeting with a very ambitious agenda.

They tried to pass the agenda at the conference of ambassadors of the 125 member countries, but because of the strong resistance put up by the poorer countries, they could not pass it at the ambassadorial level. They are now making a further attempt at the ministerial-level meeting in Singapore.

The principal items of the agenda are the following:

Firstly, from now on there should be a common frame of investment laws. They will decide. They will sit in judgment. They will decide whether we can allow foreigners to come into the country and on what terms they would come in. We have nothing to say. They will decide.

Another thing is of a financial nature. That also we have to accept. They will decide. They will decide as to what will be the structure of company taxation. We do not have to sit here an debate it. Mr. Chaidambaram need not have to decide as to what will be the structure of company taxation. They will decide as to this is the kind of thing we should have.

Thirdly, they are insisting that within the next six or eight months, we must agree to completely scrap our import duty structure in regard to the import of electronic goods. At the same time, if we ask them: what about the import duty you are imposing, or the quantitative restrictions that you are imposing on our textiles, on our shoes?', they are turning the other way. They would not respond.